

CITIZENS URGED TO USE CAUTION IN SWIMMING POST-HURRICANE

Flooding from the hurricane has resulted in contaminants from various sources being washed into streams, creeks, rivers and eventually bay waters. These waters may contain fecal material from overflowing sewage systems as well as other contaminants from a variety of sources.

"The Mobile County Health Department urges citizens to use caution when using these affected areas for swimming or recreational activities," said Dr. Bernard Eichold, Mobile County Health Officer.

Although skin contact with floodwaters does not, by itself, pose a serious health risk, there is some risk of disease from eating or drinking anything contaminated with floodwater. If one has open cuts or sores that will be exposed to flood water, keep them as clean as possible by washing well with soap to control infection. Whether there is a flood or not, anyone who gets a wound and has not had a tetanus shot within the past 10 years should get one. If a wound develops redness, swelling or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.

Also, any seafood caught from these waters should be thoroughly cooked prior to consumption. After handling seafood, thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.